

Appl. No. : 10/603,425
Filed : June 24, 2003

REMARKS

Claims 1, 7, 13-16, 18, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30, and 35-44 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 39-41 have been canceled. Upon entry of the amendment, Claims 1, 7, 13-16, 18, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30, 35-38, and 42-44 will be under consideration.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 39-41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Deutsch (U.S. Patent No. 4,280,909) in view of Zhang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,236,588). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 39-41 have been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's allowance of Claims 1, 7, 13-16, 18, 21, 22, 25-27, 29, 30, 35-38, and 42-44.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

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